

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05559 301447Z

50

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 069085

R 301422Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4038

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5559

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, XF

SUBJ: TERRORIST INCIDENTS

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 5558; (B) TEL AVIV 5416 (NOTAL)

(C) TEL AVIV 4888; (D) TEL AVIV 4918

1. AS WE HAVE REPORTED IN REF (A), GOI HAS REACTED TO LATEST TERRORIST INCIDENT FROM JORDAN IN MANNER DESIGNED TO REASSURE ISRAELI PUBLIC RE IDF CAPABILITIES AND JORDANIAN MOTIVES. THIS IS THIRD TERRORIST INCIDENT IN LAST FOUR WEEKS WHICH ISRAELIS BELIEVE ORIGINATED FROM JORDAN. WE ASSUME, AS DOES GOI, THAT PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS WILL CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO INFILTRATE INTO ISRAEL AND CAUSE AS MUCH DISRUPTION AS POSSIBLE IN PERIOD PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MID EAST. WE IMAGINE THAT NOTHING WOULD SUIT THEM BETTER THAN A SITUATION IN WHICH JORDAN IS SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY ISRAELI MILITARY RETALIATION.

2. DESPITE PUBLIC POSTURE OF REASSURANCE, WE BELIEVE THAT ISRAELIS ARE IRRITATED AND BELIEVE JORDANIANS COULD DO BETTER IN PREVENTING SUCH INCIDENTS AS HAVE OCCURRED. (IDF HAS SAID AS MUCH TO DATT.) WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT GOI HAS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED RETALIATORY ACTION NOR
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WOULD IT DO SO IF SOME FEW ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHICH HAD SAME RESULTS -- FEW ISRAELI CASUALTIES, NO CIVILIAN LOSSES.

3. WE WISH NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF TERRORISTS, WHOM ISRAELIS BELIEVE ORIGINATED IN JORDAN, SUCCEED IN PULLING OFF A "SPECTACULAR" (I.E., HITTING A SCHOOL A LA MA'ALOT OR MASSACRING BUS LOAD OF CIVILIANS), THEN RETALIATION DUE TO PUBLIC PRESSURES WOULD BE A REAL POSSIBILITY. THIS IS NOT ALARMIST, MERELY A STATEMENT OF FACT.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE FROM AMMAN TRAFFIC IF GOJ IS PLANNING TO INCREASE IN SOME MANNER RESOURCES TARGETED AGAINST INFILTRATORS. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH PRACTICAL EFFECT SUCH A MOVE MIGHT HAVE. NEVERTHELESS, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA IF THIS HAPPENED AND IF WE WERE AUTHORIZED TO TELL ISRAELIS.
VELIOTES

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